

**Wally  
Herger**  
Congressman

**2nd District - California**



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## **Herger Lauds House Passage of Bill Increasing American-Made Energy**

(WASHINGTON, D.C.) - Congressman Wally Herger today voted in favor of H.R. 4761, the Deep Ocean Energy Resources (DOER) Act, which the House passed by a bipartisan vote of 232 to 187. This measure, which Herger cosponsored, would empower coastal states to authorize environmentally safe, deep ocean energy exploration. According to the U.S. Minerals Management Service, America's deep seas on the Outer Continental Shelf contain 86 billion barrels of oil (the U.S. imports 4.5 billion per year) and 420 trillion cubic feet (TCF) of natural gas (the U.S. consumes 23 TCF per year). Herger made the following statement after House passage of the bill:

"The summer travel season serves as another costly reminder of how outdated energy restrictions are keeping America dependent on foreign oil," Herger stated. "Our nation imports 60 percent of our energy resources today, making us twice as dependent on foreign energy as we were just 30 years ago. Our dependence on foreign energy has contributed significantly to skyrocketing gas prices, home heating costs, and costs to run farms and small businesses.

"We are the only developed nation in the world that forbids ocean energy production," continued Herger. "I strongly support the DOER Act to help us reverse this costly policy and move our nation toward greater energy independence. This common sense measure would allow coastal states to utilize 21st Century, environmentally safe technology to increase energy production off their shores--which is exactly what our nation needs.

Specifically, the DOER Act would:

1. Places a permanent moratorium on deep ocean exploration within 3 and 50 miles off their coasts, though states could repeal this ban.
2. Grant states the authority to allow natural gas and/or oil production between 50 and 100 miles offshore. States could decline to exercise this authority.
3. Provide billions in new revenue for coastal states

Herger concluded, "I hope the Senate overcomes the influence of special interests and quickly passes this bill."

For more information, log on to <http://www.house.gov/herger> on the Internet!

Below is the text of Congressman Herger's speech in support of the Deep Ocean Energy Resources Act. The speech was submitted for the Congressional Record.

*"Mr. Speaker: If gasoline prices are bad, natural gas prices are even worse. The price of this fuel has tripled over the last six years. This dramatic increase is hurting my constituents in Northern California who rely on natural gas for heating and lighting. Farmers who use natural gas for crop drying, irrigation, and fertilizer production are also getting squeezed.*

*"Yet while prices climb to record levels, Washington has essentially made it impossible for states to provide any relief. This legislation changes that. This bipartisan compromise gives the states the power to decide how to utilize America's ocean energy resources. It's a common sense plan for affordable energy, new jobs, and environmental protection.*

*" I commend Chairman Pombo and urge support for the rule and the underlying bill."*

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